



Room 901, Hang Shing Bldg., 363-373 Nathan Road, Kowloon.  
Email: [hkdu@hkdu.org](mailto:hkdu@hkdu.org) Home page: <http://www.hkdu.org>  
Tel. No.: 2388 2728 Fax: 2385 5275

Our Ref.: HKDU/241/2013

16<sup>th</sup> December 2013

By email and fax

Dr. the Hon. Leung Ka Lau  
Chairman  
Panel on Health Services  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Dr. the Hon. Leung,

**Re: Hong Kong Doctors Union Submission on suggestions by Working Group  
on Differentiation between Medical Procedures and Beauty Services**

Hong Kong Doctors Union agrees with the attempts by the Government to revise her regulations of cosmetic medicine and cosmetic procedures.

Since 2005 when cosmetic medicine made her appearance in Hong Kong, the business of this industry mushroomed dramatically, made possible by the permission to advertise, the contents of which cover a wide scope of beauty medicine from skin rejuvenation to plastic reconstruction of noses and breasts. However due to lack of proper supervision and control, it has led to a series of problems jeopardizing the health of community.

Problems resulted from the above unregulated cosmetic beauty industry includes:

1) Laymen purporting as professionals

Covered by face masks and caps, staffs of beauty parlours act like professional doctors and customers are not told who they really are.

The courses run by the Employee Retraining Board such as those teaching medical beautification misled people and should be now scrutinized and considered being scrapped.

2) Dangerous drugs, machinery including X-ray machines

Employee doctors of these clinics are exploited when dangerous drugs are ordered in their names and they are made to sign for accepting the delivered drugs.

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3) Advertisements

These beauty procedures are often broadly advertised, with misleading information.

As such we concur with more stringent regulatory measures proposed by the Government for protecting the health of citizens and further we would like to strengthen the following measures:

- i) Regulate the beauty industry and especially the Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) - Since HMOs are often owned by the lay businessmen, they should be properly regulated.
- ii) Clear division between medical procedures and purely cosmetic procedures. We laud the government along with the medical profession in efforts to make this delineation clearer and for the safety of patients strictly forbid non-medical persons to undertake procedures defined as medical. We do ask the government to look further into the use of lasers and other equipment that are considered invasive and strictly supervise their use and restricting their use to the medical profession
- iii) Ordered equipment and machinery should be signed by registered medical practitioners.
- iv) Strictly regulate health related and beauty procedures advertisements.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Ho Ock Ling  
Hon. Secretary  
Hong Kong Doctors Union

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